

Summary

This sermon explores Acts chapter 8, focusing on Philip's encounter with the Ethiopian eunuch on the desert road. The message emphasizes how God uses persecution and scattering to advance His mission, positioning ordinary believers like Philip to reach people in unexpected places. Philip, who started as a food pantry worker, becomes an evangelist through simple obedience to God's direction. The Ethiopian eunuch represents those searching for truth, traveling great distances to understand God but needing someone to explain the Gospel.

The sermon divides the audience into two groups: the 'Phillips' (believers called to share their faith) and the 'eunuchs' (those still searching for Christ). For believers, the key lessons are to look for people when God positions them somewhere, remember there's common ground at the cross regardless of differences, and trust that small acts of obedience can lead to big kingdom impact. For seekers, the message encourages them to recognize their spiritual hunger, invite others into their search for understanding, and realize they might be the start of something significant in God's kingdom.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together today, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us. Whether we see ourselves as those You are sending or those You are seeking, help us to be receptive to Your Spirit's leading. Give us courage to step out in obedience like Philip, and give us hunger for truth like the Ethiopian eunuch. Lord, position us exactly where You want us to be, and help us recognize the divine appointments You have prepared for us. We pray that our time together would draw us closer to You and equip us to be part of Your movement in this world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's the longest road trip you've ever taken, and what was the most unexpected thing that happened along the way?

Key Verses

1. Acts 8:26
2. Acts 8:29
3. Acts 8:35-36
4. Acts 1:8

Questions

1. Philip went from serving in the food pantry to becoming an evangelist. How has God used your ordinary roles or circumstances to position you for His purposes?
2. The Ethiopian eunuch was wealthy and powerful but still searching for spiritual truth. What does this teach us about the universal need for the Gospel regardless of social status?

3. Philip obeyed God's direction to go to a desert road without knowing why. When has God asked you to step out in faith without seeing the full picture?
4. The sermon mentions that 'where God positions you is always about people.' Who might be the 'one' God has positioned you to reach in your current circumstances?
5. Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch were very different culturally and socially, yet found common ground at the cross. How can we better reach across differences to share the Gospel?
6. The Ethiopian immediately wanted to be baptized after hearing about Jesus. What does his urgency teach us about responding to God's call in our lives?
7. Philip's small act of obedience led to the Gospel spreading to an entire continent. How might God want to use your 'small' acts of faithfulness for His bigger purposes?
8. For those still searching like the eunuch, what steps can you take this week to invite others into your journey of understanding faith?

Life Application

This week, pay attention to where God has positioned you and look for the 'who' - the person He may want you to reach. Whether it's at work, school, in your neighborhood, or family, ask God to show you someone who might be searching for truth. Take one practical step to engage with that person, whether it's starting a conversation, offering to pray for them, or simply showing Christ's love through your actions. If you're still searching yourself, find one Christian friend or small group to help you explore your questions about faith.

Key Takeaways

1. God uses persecution and scattering to advance His mission - what looks like setback can be divine setup
2. Where God positions you is always about people - your location and circumstances are strategic for reaching others
3. There is always common ground at the cross - differences in background, race, or social status don't prevent Gospel connection
4. Small acts of obedience can lead to big kingdom impact - faithfulness in little things opens doors to greater opportunities
5. Everyone is on a journey searching for what's missing - both believers and seekers need community and guidance in their spiritual growth

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for showing us through Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch that You orchestrate divine appointments in our lives. Help us to be faithful like Philip - ready to go where You send us and look for the people You've placed in our path. For those of us still searching like the eunuch, give us courage to ask questions and seek understanding. Whether we're sharing our faith or seeking to understand it better, remind us that You can use anyone, anywhere, at any time for Your kingdom purposes. Position us for Your purposes, open our eyes to see the opportunities around us, and give us boldness to step into the movement You're creating through ordinary people like us. May we leave here today ready to be part of Your story, knowing that You can take our small yes and turn it into something eternally significant. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.